

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical instrument comprising:  
  
a handle assembly;  
  
a rod member extending from a distal end of the handle assembly; and,  
  
an adjustment screw located within the handle assembly and upon a  
5 proximal end of the rod member, wherein length of the rod member outside of the  
handle assembly can be changed by the adjustment screw.
2. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein a longitudinal axis of  
the rod member coincides with a longitudinal axis of the adjustment screw.
3. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the adjustment screw  
includes a bore through which a proximal end of the rod member is seated.
4. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the adjustment screw is  
contained within the handle assembly and not accessible after manufacture of the  
surgical instrument.
5. The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the adjustment screw  
includes internal threads which engage with external threads on the rod member.